

NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PRESIDENT VISITS SD

National American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan traveled South Dakota this week. South Dakota State President Jeannine Loesch is traveling with her as they meet and greet network partners throughout the state.

Tuesday she visited SDDVA's Pierre office and met with Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard. Thursday they will be touring the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and Friday they will be meeting with Secretary Larry Zimmerman. Deputy Secretary Pollard briefed her on SDDVA, the code talkers, Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and the proposed State Veterans Cemetery.



Dungan is from Wesson, Mississippi, and is a 40-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she chaired ten committees and served special appointments, including work on the ALA's 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan, Future Focus Committee, 100th Anniversary Committee and Succession Planning Committee. Dungan also served as ALA Mississippi Girls State director for three years.

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FALLEN HEROES HONORED WITH SDNG MEMORIAL

The South Dakota National Guard dedicated a new memorial plaza, Sept. 8, on Camp Rapid to honor 171 fallen SDNG soldiers who died in various wars or conflicts since the organization's formation in 1862.

The memorial pays tribute to the service and sacrifice of these fallen heroes who were active members of the SDNG and died while deployed during federal service.

The soldiers and their families were honored in several ways including the playing of taps, firing a cannon, a Black Hawk helicopter flyover and speeches by distinguished guests.

South Dakota Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, made speeches honoring the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their state and country.

"I wanted to give a complete picture and give due credit to honor every family who lost a soldier," said Reisch. "It's long overdue but we got it right, and it's something we can be proud of. In talking with the family members, they are appreciative of what we did here. We are not going to forget about these soldiers."



The memorial plaza includes a metallic globe, stone wall and metal plaques with the names of all known South Dakota Guardsmen who lost their lives during the Spanish-American War/Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"People will come here 50 years from now and they will see the names, and maybe it will be children, grandchildren or great grandchildren that will know that the South Dakota National Guard is appreciative of what their family member did," said Reisch.

VA'S "BE THERE" CAMPAIGN

To mark Suicide Prevention Month this September, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is shining a light on effective ways to prevent veteran suicide with its "Be There" campaign.

The campaign highlights the risk factors and warning signs for suicide, provides information about VA mental health and suicide prevention resources, and helps individuals and organizations start the conversation around veteran mental health in their communities.

"In our various communities, everyone is in a position to make a difference for a veteran who may be at risk for suicide," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, who recorded a video about the VA's strategies to prevent veteran suicide. "A common misconception is that you need special training to talk safely about suicide risk or show concern for someone who is in distress. One simple act of kindness could help save a life. I encourage everyone this September, and beyond, to take the first step in acting as that support system."

Talking with a veteran about mental health or suicide risk may be challenging, but the VA encourages community leaders, colleagues, family and friends to simply "*Be There*" by sharing messages of support that can help show a veteran you care. The VA has also collaborated with community partners and is asking individuals across the country this month to share resources with veterans in their lives via the [BeThereFor-Veterans.com](https://www.bethereforveterans.com) webpage.

Veterans in crisis or having thoughts of suicide — and those who know a veteran in crisis — can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or text to 838255.

POLLARD ADDRESSES SD MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard addressed the Access to Mental Health Services Legislative Interim Study Committee on Tuesday of this week.

The Interim Committee is studying mental health services throughout the state. Their scope is a review of mental health services available in the state and the capacity of the available services including:

- how persons with mental illness are treated and continuum care;
- facilities, locations, resources, treatment options, and services available for treatment of persons with mental illness; and
- financial costs to the state and its political subdivisions.

In his remarks Pollard stressed that one of the many challenges facing veterans with mental health issues is transportation in the rural areas.

"There is no single right answer on how to prevent veterans' suicides or how to treat veterans who suffer from mental health conditions," said Pollard. "We must continue to explore all opportunities to address veterans' mental health conditions and seek out treatment options that fit the individual."

This interim committee will meet again November 19.



STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Gulf Veterans Fire Corps

thesca.org/vfc



EXPENSE-PAID TRAINING AND INTERNSHIP

SCA's Veterans Fire Corps is comprised of post-9/11-era US Military Veterans receiving essential training, credentials and experience to competitively pursue wildland fire and/or forestry careers. In this internship members will serve in teams of five with an experienced SCA Project Leader. This team will be located throughout coastal Mississippi and Alabama.

Training Provided

- Two weeks of field based training
- Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- Introduction to Incident Command System
- Standards for Survival
- Human Factors on the Fireline
- Introduction to the National Incident Management System
- Wildland Fire Chainsaw Certification
- Basic Wildlife Firefighter and Red Card Certification
- Wilderness First Aid and CPR
- S190 Certification

Participate in Projects like:

- Prescribed burns
- Fuels Reduction
- Fire effects monitoring
- Educational Outreach
- Pre-fire preparation of burn units

Internship Details:

- This team will consist of five members with one SCA project leader
- 4 days on 3 days off, 40 hours a week
- Free Housing and field-based meals

PROGRAM DATES & LOCATIONS:

- **February 3 to May 3, 2019**
(Dates may adjust within 1-2 weeks)
Mississippi Sandhill Crane National
Wildlife Refuge

BENEFITS

- \$1515 in AmeriCorps Education Awards
- Round trip travel allowance of \$650
- Living allowance of \$300 per week
- Worker's Compensation
- Over \$1200 worth of certifications to include:
 - » Wildland Fire Chainsaws
 - » Basic Wildland Firefighter
 - » Wilderness First Aid and CPR
 - » Red Card Certification

REQUIREMENTS

- Post 9/11 Military Veteran
- DD 214 with Honorable Discharge
(General Discharge under Honorable
positions considered)
- Valid Driver's License

Read the Veteran's Fire Corps blog at
thesca.org/VFC

Questions or to apply, contact Jenifer Huckabone at
jhuckabone@thesca.org • 703.524.2441 ext. 2017

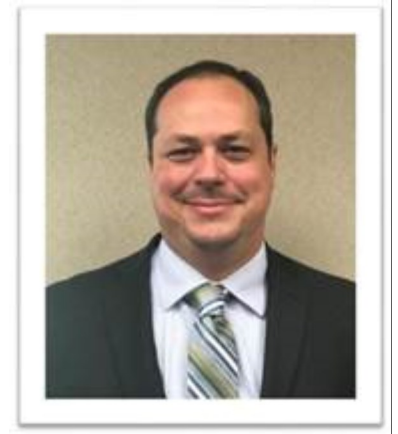
NEW CHIEF OF STAFF APPOINTED FOR VABHHCS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System announces the appointment of Neil Goodloe, MD as Chief of Staff.

Prior to joining the VA in 2016, Dr. Goodloe provided consultation on infectious diseases at Cox Health, a level 1 trauma center in southwest Missouri. He has extensive experience in the private sector working in geriatrics and end of life care including a position as chief hospitalist in southeast Kansas and medical director of nursing homes, hospice and ICU. His specialties are in internal medicine and infectious disease.

He received his Bachelor of Arts in Biology at the University of Kansas where he also completed his medical school, residency and fellowship. He also holds certification in Hospital Epidemiology.

Before moving into the role as chief of staff, he was serving as the Associate Chief of Staff for Extended Care and Rehabilitation at VA Black Hills Health Care System.



YANKTON AND WATERTOWN NATIONAL GUARD UNITS TO DEPLOY TO EUROPE

About 115 soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's Bravo Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and 147th Forward Support Company have received a mobilization order for an eight-month deployment to Europe beginning in December.

The units will deploy within European Command's area of responsibility in support of allied nation partnerships and regional security and stability goals.

The Yankton-based Bravo Battery is equipped with the Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS, and is capable of providing artillery support to a brigade, division, corps or coalition task force. The Watertown-based Forward Support Company is a multifunctional logistics unit which provides supply and maintenance support.


The units will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

SFVAHCS NEW VETERAN ORIENTATION CLASSES

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System will be conducting “New Veteran Orientation Classes.” The classes will be held the first and third Thursdays of each month and will be held on second floor of the new primary care addition (Room 2013) of the SFVAHCS (2501 W. 22nd Street).

The agenda for the orientation classes will include: a brief history of the facility, VA services, suicide prevention, whole health, specialty services, woman veterans health services, care in the community, and volunteer and safety information.

For more information, contact: Kirsten Gerdes, Occupational Therapist, at 605-336-3230, Ext. 6454 or Aaron Kompelien, Engineering, at 605-336-3230, Ext. 5803.



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Connect. It matters.
Friendship. It matters.
Ask the question. It matters.

Support.
Compassion. It matters.
Listen. It matters.
Family. It matters.

It Matters.
Because one small act can make the difference.

Share the Veterans Crisis Line Number to Save a Life

September is Suicide Prevention Month — which is the perfect time to share a life-saving resource: the Veterans Crisis Line. This confidential, toll-free, 24-hour-a-day hotline serves Veterans and their loved ones year-round. Reach qualified, caring responders

- by phone at 800-273-8255,
- [via online chat on their website](#), or
- by text message at 838255.

VA TO FUND FIRST CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR VETERAN AND CAREGIVER RESEARCH

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will fund a new center of excellence to expand the department's capacity to deliver innovative, data-driven and integrated approaches to improve services for veterans and their caregivers.

Managed by the VA's Office of Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D), the first of its kind center will be named for Sen. Elizabeth Dole in recognition of her national leadership and advocacy on behalf of the nation's 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers, and her support for the landmark RAND Corp. research on their challenges.

The Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran and Caregiver Research will serve as the model for excellence in peer-reviewed research on innovation, training, evaluation, implementation and the dissemination and adoption of best practices in supporting the caregivers of veterans across the VA, the federal government and private and nonprofit sectors.

"Given Senator Elizabeth Dole's significant impact on, and dedication to, military and veteran caregivers, it is only fitting that the VA names this center of excellence in her honor," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The creation of the Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran and Caregiver Research is a firm example of the VA's ongoing commitment to improving services and outcomes for the families, friends and neighbors who tirelessly care for our nation's veterans."

The center of excellence consists of a multidisciplinary team that takes advantage of HSR&D's virtual network of nationally recognized VA investigators and their university affiliates to ensure that their state-of-the-art research will have the greatest possible impact on veterans and the caregivers who support them. The team of VA investigators will be led by Dr. Luci Leykum of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

Additional collaborating sites (and leaders) include the following: the Miami VA Healthcare System (Dr. Stuti Dang); VA Salt Lake City Health Care System (Dr. Mary Jo Pugh,); and the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (Dr. Ranak Trivedi).

The creation of the center will allow the VA to further all evidence-based research to inform the most appropriate and effective care for veterans based on their needs, most notably by: involving caregivers of veterans in the design and implementation of innovative models of care; applying the best caregiver and veteran-driven metrics for evaluation and feedback; using data science to inform matching of services to different veteran and caregiver groups; and applying implementation science to improve the deployment of best practices in home- and community-based care.

The resulting work will inform care delivery and improvement by empowering veterans, caregivers, VA and non-VA providers, and leadership in making informed choices regarding the best care for veterans and support for those who support them.

For more information on the VA's HSR&D's program, visit <https://www.hsr.dresearch.va.gov/>.

HERO APPRECIATION GAME



OCT. 13TH, 2018 -



BHSU FOOTBALL GAME

★ ★ ★ ★ ATTENTION HEROES

BHSU athletics would like to invite all Military Personnel, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and EMS Personnel to the "Hero Appreciation Game" as the Yellow Jacket football team hosts New Mexico Highlands University at 1:00pm. All Military, Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and EMS personnel will receive (2) tickets for the game with ID.



VA IMPLEMENTS NEW FIDUCIARY REGULATIONS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently updated [regulations](#) related to how it governs the oversight of beneficiaries, who, because of injury, disease, or age, are unable to manage their VA benefits, and the appointment and oversight of fiduciaries for these vulnerable beneficiaries.

Managed by the VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), the new regulations, which took effect in August, update and reorganize fiduciary rules consistent with current law and VA policies, and clarify the rights of beneficiaries and the roles of the VA and fiduciaries in the program.

"These new regulations clarify the protections in place for veterans and family members who apply for or are currently part of our fiduciary care program," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This furthers our commitment to care for those who have given so much to our country."

Among other things, the new regulations clarify beneficiaries' rights, including the right to appeal fiduciary appointments and other fiduciary decisions, the 4 percent limit on fiduciary fees, and the procedures to remove a fiduciary, for instance, when a beneficiary demonstrates the ability to manage their own funds or when the VA determines that the fiduciary misused VA benefits.

This is the first full revision of the Fiduciary Activities regulations since they were first published in 1975.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed Friday, Sept. 21, 2018, as "POW/MIA Recognition Day," calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who fought bravely for our freedoms.

"While we are grateful to all of those who have served our nation, this day is designated to remember and recognize the sacrifices endured by those members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were held as prisoners of war or remain missing in action," the Governor said. "The state of South Dakota continues to support efforts to account for every service member classified as Missing in Action."

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, encourages all South Dakotans to set aside time Sept. 21 to honor the POW/MIAs who fought to protect our freedoms and lost theirs, as well as remember those engaged in today's struggle to guard our way of life for future generations.

"In their service to our country, former prisoners of war and those missing in action have sacrificed mightily to maintain the promise of liberty that we hold dear," said Zimmerman. "POW/MIA day affords all of us a great opportunity to reaffirm our vow to never forget the courage of our nation's staunchest defenders – our former POWs and MIAs. We owe them and their families our gratitude."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 13—Veterans Free Drop In Legal Clinic—VABHHC - Hot Springs (500 North 5th Street) 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MT)
 Sept 14—Veterans Free Drop In Legal Clinic—Legion Post 22—Rapid City (818 E. St. Patrick) 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MT)
 Sept 14—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
 Sept 21—7th Annual POW/MIA Program—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park (1021 W. Bailey Street) 6:30 pm (CT)
 Sept 21—Veterans Stand Down—VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue) - Sioux Falls—9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
 Oct 5-7—VFW Council of Administration—Cedar Shores Resort—Oacoma
 Oct 6—VFW State Commander/Aux. President Homecoming—Cedar Shores Resort—Oacoma
 Oct 8—Native American Heritage Day (state offices closed)
 Oct 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—RedRossa Grille—Pierre—8:00 am (CT)
 Oct 12-13—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Dept. Headquarters (1519 W. 51st Street) - Sioux Falls
 Oct 19—Open House new Spirit Lake CBOC—3:00 pm (CT)
 Nov 11—Veterans Day Community Program—Lincoln High School—Sioux Falls—10:30 am (CT)
 Nov 11—Veterans Day Last Call Ceremony—SFVAHCS—1:30 pm (CT)
 Nov 12—State Offices Closed
 Nov 16—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs —10:00 am (MT)
 Nov 16—Dakota Dunes CBOC Open House—2:00 pm (CT)
 Dec 4—Governor's Budget Address—State Capitol—1:00 pm (CT)
 Jan 8—Governor's State of the State—State Capitol—1:00 pm (CT)
 Jan 13-18—VFW Accredited Service Officer Training—Annapolis, MD
 Mar 3-7—VFW Legislative Conference
 July 20-24—National VFW Convention—Orlando, FL



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